

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/778,299

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

Applicant(s)

LEARMONTH, GARREY

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed on 05/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-10, 15, 16 and 20-25.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM

PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Applicant's Amendments, filed on May 26, 2004. Claims 1-4, 11-14 and 17-19 are canceled. Claims 5-6, 10, 15-16 and 20 are amended. Claims 22-25 are newly added. Claims 5-10, 15-16 and 20-25 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2. The drawings filed on April 09, 2001 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, corrected formal drawing is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5-10, 15-16 and 20-25 are allowed over prior art. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Due to claimed features in the amended claims 5, 15-16 and 20, the claims 5-10, 15-16 and 20-25 are allowed.

For the claims 5, 15-16 and 20, the prior art teaches (Subramanian et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,275,818) system and method for a) receiving a plurality of search queries

from users, each of the plurality of search queries including search criteria and including a user address; b) normalizing the search criteria so as to obtain a single normalized search criteria for the plurality of search queries; c) transmitting the single normalized search criteria to a search engine; d) receiving a response from the search engine that includes search results; e) generating a response to each of the search queries from users, each response including search results corresponding to the search criteria submitted by that particular user; and f) transmitting the responses to each of the users.

The prior art does not teach combination steps for normalizing the search criteria so as to obtain a single normalized search criteria for the plurality of search queries further comprising, b1) comparing the search criteria from each of the queries; b2) determining commonalities between the search criteria; and b3) generating normalized search criteria, the normalized search criteria consolidated based on the commonalities determined in step b2) so as to eliminate redundant search criteria.

Claims 6-10 and 21-25, dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification, are also allowed.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
July 21, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER